



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 9, 2018 – 9:30 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

313 S. Prospect Avenue, Champaign, IL 61820
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www.gracelutherancu.org • Pastor: Chris Repp



Welcome to Grace!

We're glad you've joined us as we gather to be encountered by God in Word and Sacrament. We believe that God is at work here to create and sustain faith in God's promise of love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We use a rich, traditional pattern of worship that dates back to the early days of Christianity. We recognize it comes with a bit of a learning curve, but we're convinced that it's worth the effort. Don't feel like you have to get everything the first time. We'll "carry" you until you get a feel for it.

Helpful information for first-time visitors:

- ❖ Restrooms are in the hall to the left of the entrance, on the right opposite the elevator.
- ❖ Our staffed nursery for children 4 and younger is on the right past the restrooms.
- ❖ Clipboards with crayons and activity sheets are on a table in the Narthex (Lobby). Other activities for young children are in the pink and blue totes.
- ❖ Our pastor enjoys meeting visitors. Please introduce yourself.

Please sign the Friendship Register located on the pew, next to the center aisle, and pass it to the person next to you during the Offering portion of the service.

We provide Name Tags for frequent visitors as well as members. If you would like one, please contact our Office Assistant (office@gracelutherancu.org).

Key to the order of service:

Regular type: spoken by a leader

Bold type: spoken by the people

Regular Italics: sung or chanted by a leader

Bold Italics: sung or chanted by the people

Small Red Italics: liturgical directions

✝ indicates that the sign of the cross may be made

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Red Hymnal)

As We Gather: James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

Note: This bulletin is available electronically on the worship menu of the Grace web site.

Large-print bulletins are available from the ushers.

Gathering

Prelude

The assembly stands.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the pastor begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Earth and All Stars!

ELW 731

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life.
Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your
promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 146

¹Hallelujah!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
³Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.
⁴**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**
⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.
⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**
⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

The Holy Gospel, according to Mark, the 7th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

The assembly stands.

Hymn of the Day

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

ELW 519

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the \oplus resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**



Prayers of Intercession

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

Each petition concludes:

... Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.
Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. After the Peace, the assembly is seated.

Meal

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

At this time, please fill out the Friendship Register and pass it to the person next to you if you have not already done so. When all have signed the Register, please return it to the center aisle for later collection.

Offertory *Whoever Would Be Great Among You*

Ron Nelson

*Text: Whoever would be great among you, must become your servant,
and whoever would be first among you, must be a slave of all.
For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.
And to give his life as a ransom for many.*

The assembly stands as the offering is brought forward.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of life,

you give us these gifts of the earth,

these resources of our life and our labor.

Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,

and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,
 God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,
 God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on
 earth. † Blest is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.
 Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated.

Communion

We believe that Christ is truly present for us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, forming us into his body for the sake of the world. We welcome to the Lord's table all baptized Christians. Those who are not baptized we invite to explore with us the Christian faith and consider baptism. Those who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please hold this bulletin in your hands as a sign to the pastor that you would like a blessing.

To receive communion, please join the line on your side of the aisle and proceed to the pastor. (Note: gluten-free, dairy-free, wheat-free wafers are available. Just ask the pastor.) To receive wine, take an empty glass from the acolyte and proceed to a deacon with a pouring chalice. (Pre-poured glasses of grape juice are also available from the acolytes). Place your used glass in the basket provided near the stairs on the side you leave. Please notify an usher if you need to have communion brought to you in your seat.

Lamb of God

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Communion Hymns

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

ELW 763

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

ELW 708

The assembly stands.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

Sending

(Sending Of Communion)

A prayer may be said for the sending of communion to those who are absent.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Support

The ministry of the church is carried out by all of its people, and Christian worship is a communal activity of the whole assembly. We give thanks to the following for their worship leadership and support today.

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Chris Repp	Director of Music:	Jon Arnold
Assisting Minister:	Claire Vail	Guitars:	Dave Brown
Reader:	Sadie Kasten		Jack Wilkie
Deacons:	Tina Fehrenbacher	Bass Guitar:	Michael Miller
	Lois Wilken	Vocals:	Claire Vail
Acolytes:	Maddie Thackeray	Drums:	Parker Mosher
	Ben Kirby	Sound Technician:	Kevin Vail
Director of Youth and Congregational Life:	Caitlyn Reinders	Ushers:	Martinis-Blanke Family
Communications Specialist:	Virginia Lehmann	Greeters:	Bilger-Meyer Family
Office Assistant:	Chris Alcorn	Counters:	Randy Laugges
			Julie Johnson
		Communion Bread:	Ruth Anderson
		Nursery Coordinator:	Paula Miller
		Nursery Assistants:	Melissa Goldman
			Jillian Devine, and Jonlyn Miller
		Coffee Hour:	Hospitality Committee

☞ Chancel flowers are given by **Sydney Bianchini** ☞
in memory of husband, Al.

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